

State Child Death Review Board

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ANNUAL REPORT ON CHILD DEATHS RELEASED

The State Child Death Review Board (SCDRB) has released its annual report on child death covering the year 2001.

The SCDRB comprehensively reviewed 522 child deaths that occurred during calendar year 2001. In 2001, 293 children died of natural causes not related to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); 84 died in motor vehicle crashes; 50 died of non-vehicle related unintentional injuries; 36 died of SIDS; 23 were victims of homicide; 17 were victims of suicide; and 19 deaths were categorized as undetermined.

The 522 deaths reviewed by the SCDRB in 2001 included 194 neonates (less than 29 days of age); 106 postneonatal infants (ranging from 30 days to one year old); 66 children from one to four years old; 29 children from five to nine years old; 45 children from 10 to 14 years old; and 82 adolescents from 15 to 17 years of age.

The Board's report also highlights data from the eight-year period 1994-2001. The following chart outlines manners of death from 1994-2001.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	TOTAL
Natural	264	226	328	281	298	305	295	293	2290
Unintentional Injury	98	84	125	107	123	121	136	134	928
Natural-SIDS	49	44	35	46	32	40	41	36	323
Homicide	33	25	31	22	36	21	19	23	210
Suicide	15	12	16	21	26	16	17	17	140
Undetermined	5	13	20	17	11	11	13	19	109
TOTAL	464	404	555	494	526	514	521	522	4000

The SCDRB uses the information it gathers to educate the public on how to protect children as well as to develop recommendations for preventing child fatalities. The SCDRB's report is available on-line at <http://www.ksag.org/contents/scdrb/main.htm>.

The State Child Death Review Board is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency, all-volunteer board of professionals that examines the circumstances surrounding the deaths of all Kansas children (birth through 17 years of age) and children who are not residents, but who die in the state. Members of the SCDRB include physicians, attorneys, and professionals from the fields of law enforcement and social services. The goals of the SCDRB are to describe trends and patterns of child deaths in Kansas, develop prevention strategies, and improve sources of data and communication among agencies so that recommendations can be made. The Board's executive director, Eric Haar, can be reached at 785-296-2215 or at haare@ksag.org.